

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 OIC-02 AID-05

EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /154 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1840

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TAGS: OCON

SUBJECT; UN ADMINISTRATION: COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES

ADOPTS FIRST PART OF ITS REPORTS

REF: A)USUN 1950, B)USUN 1882, C)USUN 2085

1.SUMMARY: THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES ADOPTED THE FIRST PART OF ITS 1978 REPORT FRIDAY, JUNE 2. THE REPORT CONTAINS TEN RECOMMENDATIONS PERTAINING TO THE CONTROL AND LIMITATION OF UN DOCUMENTATION AND THE UTILIZATION OF CONFERENCE RESOURCES. END SUMMARY.

2. ADOPTION OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES REPORT TOOK PLACE AFTER SEVEN MEETINGS OVER A TWO AND A HALF WEEK PERIOD FOLLOWING THE END OF THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION MAY 11 (REFTEL A). THE MEETING TIME WAS SPLIT EVENLY BETWEEN IRONING OUT THE WORDING OF THE COMMITTEE'S TEN RECOMMENDATIONS AND REVIEWING THE DRAFT REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES FOR THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR. THE SECOND PART OF THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT DEALING WITH ITS ACTIVITIES TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE PREPARED IN LATE AUGUST.

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3. WORK ON THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT PROCEEDED IN A SMOOTH AND BUSINESS-LIKE MANNER. THE MOST HEATED DEBATE OCCURRED ON A PASSAGE REPORTING A SOVIET PROPOSAL WHICH CALLED UPON UNDP, UNITAR, UNICEF, AND OTHERS TO REIMBURSE CONFERENCE SERVICES FOR MEETINGS OF THOSE AGENCIES (REFTEL B). ALTHOUGH THIS RECOMMENDATION WAS

PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED AND REJECTED BY THE COMMITTEE, THE USSR (GRODSKY) WANTED THE REPORT TO STATE THAT "THE VIEW WAS EXPRESSED BY SEVERAL DELEGATIONS THAT THE UN BUDGET, WHICH IS THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET OF THE ORGANIZATION, SHOULD NOT PAY FOR THE OPERATIVE ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND FUNDS SINCE THIS WOULD BE IN CONTRADICTION TO THE UN CHARTER."

4. ALGERIA OBJECTED TO THE ABOVE WORDING BECAUSE ONLY ONE DELEGATION (USSR) HAD EXPRESSED SUCH AN OPINION AND THUS, RECOMMENDED THAT THE WORD "SEVERAL" BE REPLACED BY "ONE." USSR ASKED THE RAPPORTEUR (HANNAH, NEW ZEALAND) TO REVIEW HIS NOTES TO DETERMINE AS TO HOW MANY DELEGATIONS EXPRESSED SIMILAR OPINIONS. AT THE FOLLOWING MEETING THE RAPPORTEUR REPORTED HIS RESEARCH INDICATED THAT ONLY ONE DELEGATION HAD STATED SUCH AN OPINION. THE COMMITTEE THEN ADOPTED THE SENTENCE AS REVISED BY ALGERIA. PRIOR TO THE MEETING GRODSKY WAS OVERHEARD TELLING THE RAPPORTEUR THAT IF CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAD ATTENDED THE MEETING IN QUESTION, IT WOULD HAVE ECHOED THE USSR'S SENTIMENTS. HANNAH RESPONDED THAT IF OPINIONS OF NON-ATTENDING DELEGATIONS WERE REFLECTED IN THE COMMITTEE REPORTS, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR MEETINGS, EACH DELEGATION COULD MERELY SUBMIT STATEMENTS TO THE COMMITTEE SECRETARY.

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5. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE TEN RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON CONFERENCES.

6. RECOMMENDATION ONE: CALLS UPON THE GA TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES OF SHORTENING SESSIONS OF UN BODIES OR OF HAVING BODIES MEET ON A BIENNIAL OR LESS FREQUENT BASIS. THE FINDINGS ARE TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE IN 1979.

7. RECOMMENDATION TWO: SUGGESTS TO THE GA THAT THE LENGTH OF FUTURE SESSIONS OF A BODY BE EXAMINED BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE BASIS OF EXPERIENCE AS TO THE USE OF ALLOCATED MEETING TIME DURING ITS PRECEDING SESSION OR SESSIONS.

8. RECOMMENDATIONTHREE: ASKS THE GA TO CALL UPON THE REGIONAL GROUPS TO AGREE ON THE COMPOSITION OF BUREAUS OF UN BODIES WELL IN ADVANCE OF SESSIONS IN ORDER THAT THE ORGANIZATIONAL WORK OF SESSIONS COMMENCE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

9. RECOMMENDATION FOUR: RECOMMENDS THAT THE GA STRONGLY

URGE ALL UN BODIES TO OPEN AND ADJOURN MEETINGS ON TIME
AND THAT EACH BODY SUBMIT INFORMATION TO THE
SECRETARIAT ON THE USE OF TIME DURING THE PRECEDING
SESSION. THIS INFORMATION WILL BE USED BY THE
SECRETARIAT FOR SUBMITTING PROPOSALS.

10. RECOMMENDATION FIVE: RECOMMENDS THAT THE GA REQUEST
THAT UN BODIES KEEP UNDER REVIEW THE POSSIBILITY OF
CONDUCTING THEIR BUSINESS IN INFORMAL MEETINGS.

11. RECOMMENDATION SIX: NOTES THE SAVINGS ACCRUED
THROUGH OVERPROGRAMMING OF MEETINGS AND THE SYG'S
INTENTION TO CONTINUE THE MAXIMUM OVERPROGRAMMING OF
MEETINGS.

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12. RECOMMENDATION SEVEN: CALLS UPON THE GA TO
REQUEST THE COMMITTEE, IN ESTABLISHING CALENDARS OF
CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS, TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE

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RELATIVE DISTRIBUTION OF CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS BY
MAJOR FIELD OF ACTIVITY IN PRIOR YEARS. COMMENT:
THIS IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD ESTABLISHING AN OPTIMUM
LEVEL OF MEETINGS BY MAJOR FIELD OF ACTIVITY. END

COMMENT.

13. RECOMMENDATION EIGHT: REQUESTS THE SECRETARIAT TO CONTINUE STUDYING COMPARABLE WORKLOAD STANDARDS OF CONFERENCE SERVICING STAFF IN NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICES AND OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.

14. RECOMMENDATION NINE: SEE REFTEL C.

15. RECOMMENDATION TEN: THIS IS AN OMNIBUS RECOMMENDATION PERTAINING TO THE QUESTION OF UN DOCUMENTATION. ITS RECOMMENDATIONS INCLUDE A REQUEST THAT THE GA REAFFIRM ITS DECISION THAT ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES NOT ANNEX EASILY ACCESSIBLE DOCUMENTS; THAT ALL INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES ENDEAVOR TO LIMIT THEIR REPORTS TO THIRTY-TWO PAGES; AND THAT INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES REVIEW RECURRENT DOCUMENTS TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THEIR PRODUCTION CAN BE REDUCED OR TERMINATED. RECOMMENDATION 10 ALSO ASKS THE GA TO REQUEST THE SECRETARIAT TO UNCLASSIFIED

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CIRCULATE EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE A MEETING AN ANNOTATED AGENDA WHICH INCLUDES A REPORT ON THE STATE OF PREPAREDNESS OF DOCUMENTS; TO ENSURE THAT PRE-SESSION DOCUMENTS FOR MEETINGS ARE DISTRIBUTED NOT LESS THAN SIX WEEKS BEFORE A MEETING; TO DRAW TO THE ATTENTION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES LIKELY DUPLICATION OF DOCUMENTATION IN THE HOPE OF INTERGRATING OR CONSOLIDATING DOCUMENTS; TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES ANY REQUESTS FOR DOCUMENTATION WHICH ARE BEYOND THE CAPACITY OF THE SECRETARIAT TO PRODUCE IT IN A TIMELY MANNER AND TO GIVE DUE EXPLANATIONS; AND TO DEVELOP SYSTEMATIC TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR PROFESSIONAL STAFF WHO NEED TO IMPROVE DRAFTING SKILLS FOR UN DOCUMENTATION.

16. COMMENT: THE REQUEST THAT DOCUMENTS BE DISTRIBUTED SIX WEEKS PRIOR TO A SESSION WHERE POSSIBLE IS AN EXTENSION TO ALL INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES OF THE CURRENT SIX-WEEK RULEECOSOC ATTEMPTS TO ABIDE BY. END COMMENT.

17. A COPY OF THE UNREVISED DRAFT REPORT AND THE REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS HAS BEEN POUCHED TO SOUTHWORTH 10/IBC/BA. YOUNG

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